

## ***GPO's Fiscal Year 2001 Appropriations Action***

GPO completed the presentation of its appropriations request to Congress for FY 2001 by appearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations on Tuesday, February 22, 2000. GPO appeared before the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on February 1, 2000.

Testifying before both subcommittees, the Public Printer requested \$121.3 million for GPO's operations. The request included \$80.8 million for Congressional Printing and Binding and \$34.5 million for Salaries and Expenses of the Superintendent of Documents. It also included \$6 million to cover extraordinary expenses associated with the replacement of GPO's air conditioning system. Not including the funds for air conditioning, the request represented an increase of 11.7 percent over the level of funding approved by Congress for FY 2000, or \$103.2 million.

Workload increases accounted for a majority of the requested increase in funding. Under Congressional Printing and Binding, GPO budgeted for the produc-

tion of a new edition of the *U.S. Code*, which is issued every six years by law, as well as a variety of products in support of the 2001 Presidential inauguration. GPO also projected that the first session of the 107th Congress would generate increased workload for a number of products, such as bills, resolutions, and amendments. For the Superintendent of Documents' appropriation, GPO sought increased funding to expand the electronic information services made available by ***GPO Access***.

However, the conferees on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for FY 2001 approved \$71.5 million for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, a reduction of nearly 3% from the \$73.3 million that was approved for FY 2000. The conferees approved \$27.9 million for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, a reduction of about 6%, from the \$29.9 million was approved for 2000. In reducing the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation, the conferees directed that "emphasis should be on streamlining the distribution of traditional paper copies of publications which may include providing online access and less expensive electronic formats."



As part of the funding bill, the conferees agreed to authorize the transfer of appropriations balances from preceding fiscal years to GPO's revolving fund. They also did not reduce the ceiling level on the number of full-time equivalents, or personnel, that GPO can employ. The number stays at 3,285 for fiscal 2001.

However, they directed a study of the printing needs of the House of Representatives, as a prelude to transferring part of GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding appropriation to the Clerk of the House in fiscal year 2003. The conferees also directed the General Accounting Office to conduct a study "on the impact of providing documents to the public solely in electronic format." The study is to include "an assessment of the feasibility of the transfer of the depository library program to the Library of Congress." The study was due to be submitted to the House Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in March 2001.

Following approval by the conferees, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for FY 2001, H.R. 4516, was passed by the House of Representatives on September 14. It was rejected by the Senate on September 20 and then passed on October 12. It was vetoed by the President on October 30. After the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2000, GPO's funding was provided through a series of 21 continuing resolutions. The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill was reintroduced on December 14 as H.R. 5657, and then incorporated by reference into the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations bill, H.R. 4577, that was passed on December 15. The President signed the bill into law on December 21.

H.R. 4577 included a .22 percent rescission to all funding contained in the bill, including GPO's appropriations, yielding an additional reduction to GPO's appropriations of \$218,000. For fiscal 2001, GPO's final appropriations totaled \$99.2 million (after application of the rescission), a decrease of nearly 4% from the level approved for FY 2000. A total of \$71.3 million was approved for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation (after application rescission), and a total of \$27.9 million was approved for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents (after application of the rescission).

